



COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

In reply quote No.

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CEREAL HARVEST ESTIMATESSOUTH AUSTRALIASEASON 1961-62

The information given in this bulletin is based on reports from 4,700 farmers whose crops exceed 50 per cent of the cereals grown in the State.

AREAS AND YIELDS (SUMMARY)

Reports last March indicated that farmers intended to sow approximately 2,261,000 acres of wheat, 1,464,000 acres of barley, and 954,000 acres of oats. The latest estimate of areas actually sown is 2,279,000 acres to wheat - a slight increase over the intended area, 1,304,000 acres to barley - a small decrease on that intended, and 660,000 acres to oats - approximately two-thirds of that intended.

Estimates now indicate that the wheat crop, notwithstanding the larger area sown, will be approximately 34.2 million bushels, 12.4 million bushels less than the 1960/61 crop, and that compared with the 1960/61 season the yields of barley and oats will fall much more than the decrease in area to approximately 22 million and 4.5 million bushels respectively.

The estimated total yield of wheat, barley, and oats is 60,768,000 bushels, 39 million bushels less than the record yield of the previous season when for the first time the grain harvest exceeded 100 million bushels. The estimated average yields per acre of 15.28, 17.37, and 14.19 bushels of wheat, barley, and oats respectively are all considerably below the yields of 23.56, 27.15 and 22.41 recorded last year and somewhat below the averages of 18.42 bushels of wheat, 22.27 bushels of barley, and 15.86 bushels of oats, for the ten seasons 1951/52 to 1960/61 inclusive.

Further comments regarding individual crops are given below under the heading "Cereal Harvests".

TABLE 1 - ESTIMATED CEREAL HARVEST : SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1961/62

Crop	Area		Yield	
	Total Sown	Sown for Grain	Total	Per Acre
	'000 Acres		'000 Bushels	Bushels
Wheat	2,279	2,239	34,213	15.28
Barley	1,304	1,267	22,014	17.37
Oats	660	320	4,541	14.19
Field Peas	28	26	270	10.38
			'000 Tons	Tons
Cereal Hay	90	-	106	1.18

SEASONAL CONDITIONS

The preliminary estimate of average rainfall over agricultural areas for the first 3 months of the growing season (April to June 1961) is 5.23 inches compared with 7.03 in the previous year, when conditions were very good, and 1.09 inches in the same period of 1959 when the rainfall was far below average. The opening rains were followed by light and patchy falls during the remainder of the season.

Preliminary figures for average rainfall over agricultural areas for the period April to November 1961 total 12.14 inches. For the same period in 1960 the figure was 15.59 inches, and the April-November mean for the 56 years ended 1960 is 12.78 inches.

CEREAL HARVESTS 1957/58 to 1961/62

Tables 2 to 5 show details of the estimated harvest for crops of wheat, barley, oats, and hay, for 1961-62 compared with the actual harvests for the four previous seasons.

WHEAT

The estimated area sown to wheat for grain for the 1961/62 season (2,239,000 acres) is the largest since the 1947/48 season when 2,374,873 acres were sown. The estimated crop is, with the exception of that for the previous year, the largest since 1942/43 when 36,525,459 bushels were harvested. The anticipated yield per acre of 15.28 bushels is more than 3 bushels less than the average yield of 18.42 bushels for the ten seasons 1951/52 to 1960/61.

TABLE 2 - WHEAT: AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1957/58	1958/59	1959/60	1960/61	Estimate 1961/62
Total Area Sown	'000 Acres	1,411	1,460	1,605	2,027	2,279
Area Sown for Grain	'000 Acres	1,331	1,407	1,549	1,969	2,239
Yield	'000 Bushels	14,914	32,032	11,929	46,396	34,213
Yield per Acre	Bushels	11.20	22.76	7.70	23.56	15.28

BARLEY

The estimated area sown to barley for grain for the 1961/62 season is smaller than that for the three preceding seasons and the yield per acre (estimated at 17.37 bushels) is considerably lower than the average of 22.27 for the ten most recent seasons.

TABLE 3 - BARLEY: AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1957/58	1958/59	1959/60	1960/61	Estimate 1961/62
Total Area Sown	'000 Acres	1,271	1,367	1,326	1,588	1,304
Area Sown for Grain	'000 Acres	1,212	1,332	1,290	1,556	1,267
Yield	'000 Bushels	17,552	37,664	11,857	42,233	22,014
Yield per Acre	Bushels	14.48	28.27	9.19	27.15	17.37

OATS

The estimated area of oats sown for grain is considerably less than for the 7 preceding seasons and is the smallest since 1953/54 when the area was 280,244 acres. The estimated yield per acre of 14.19 bushels is a little less than the average for the seasons 1951/52 to 1960/61 of 15.86 bushels.

TABLE 4 - OATS: AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1957/58	1958/59	1959/60	1960/61	Estimate 1961/62
Total Area Sown	'000 Acres	875	845	813	907	660
Area Sown for Grain	'000 Acres	427	481	505	512	320
Yield	'000 Bushels	3,423	11,992	2,504	11,478	4,541
Yield per acre	Bushels	8.01	24.93	4.95	22.41	14.19

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CEREAL HAY

Estimates given in this bulletin of the production of cereal hay relate only to areas specifically sown for the production of hay and the yield from those areas. Additional hay is cut from areas sown for grain, and in recent years the total quantity of cereal hay produced has proved to be between 10 and 20 percent greater than the quantity shown as estimated in these bulletins.

TABLE 5 - CEREAL HAY: AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1957/58	1958/59	1959/60	1960/61	Estimate 1961/62
Area Sown	'000 Acres	198	228	187	219	90
Yield	'000 Tons	183	380	130	352	106
Yield per Acre	Tons	0.92	1.66	0.69	1.61	1.18

FIELD PEAS

It is estimated that the area planted for grain during the 1961/62 season was 26,000 acres. The yield estimated is 270,000 bushels representing an average of 10.38 bushels per acre. In 1960/61 358,000 bushels were obtained from 26,000 acres. Record production is 633,000 bushels (20.75 bushels per acre) achieved in 1956/57.

D.L.J. AITCHISON

DEPUTY COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

Commonwealth Bureau of Census & Statistics,
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The following table shows the estimated production of various crops in the United States for the year 1900. The figures are in millions of bushels, except where otherwise indicated.

Crop	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890
Wheat	1,000,000	950,000	900,000	850,000	800,000	750,000	700,000	650,000	600,000	550,000	500,000
Barley	100,000	90,000	80,000	70,000	60,000	50,000	40,000	30,000	20,000	10,000	0
Oats	200,000	180,000	160,000	140,000	120,000	100,000	80,000	60,000	40,000	20,000	0
Rye	50,000	40,000	30,000	20,000	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buckwheat	10,000	8,000	6,000	4,000	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Millet	5,000	4,000	3,000	2,000	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sorghum	10,000	8,000	6,000	4,000	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maize	1,500,000	1,400,000	1,300,000	1,200,000	1,100,000	1,000,000	900,000	800,000	700,000	600,000	500,000
Indian Corn	1,000,000	950,000	900,000	850,000	800,000	750,000	700,000	650,000	600,000	550,000	500,000
Small Grains	100,000	90,000	80,000	70,000	60,000	50,000	40,000	30,000	20,000	10,000	0
Hay	1,000,000	950,000	900,000	850,000	800,000	750,000	700,000	650,000	600,000	550,000	500,000
Alfalfa	100,000	90,000	80,000	70,000	60,000	50,000	40,000	30,000	20,000	10,000	0
Legumes	100,000	90,000	80,000	70,000	60,000	50,000	40,000	30,000	20,000	10,000	0
Other	100,000	90,000	80,000	70,000	60,000	50,000	40,000	30,000	20,000	10,000	0

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